GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2032
ANSWERED ON:16.03.2005
WAITING LIST IN TELECOM CIRCLES OF WEST BENGAL .
Barman Shri Hiten

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY be pleased to state:

(a) the number of pending applications for STD/ISD telephone and PCO booths in all the telecom circles of West Bengal, circle-wise;

(b) the names of the Circles where Telephone Advisory Committees have been Constituted for providing such booths;

(c) the number of persons who applied for PCO booths in various regions of West Bengal during the last three years; and

(d) the effective steps being taken by the Government to clear the pending applications in this regard?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (DR. SHAKEEL AHMAD)

(a) Sir, number of pending applications for STD/ISD and Local Public Call Office (PCO) booths in West Bengal are as under:

Name of Circle	Pending applications for STD/ISD and Local PCOs as on 28-02-2005
West Bengal Circle	West Bengal Circle	531
(excluding Sikkim)		
Sikkim	Nil
Kolkata Telephone District	Nil

(b) Anybody of 18 years or above age are eligible to apply for a PCO. The PCOs are provided depending upon the technical feasibility. As such no committee is constituted for allotment of PCO booths.

(c) Number of persons who applied for PCO booths in various regions of West Bengal are given as under:

Name of Circle		Number of applications received					
STD/ISD PCOs			Local PCOs				
2002-03	2003-04	2004-05	2002-03	2003-04	2004-05		
Upto 28-02-05			Upto 28-02-05				
West Bengal Circle	West Bengal Circle		3796	3547	5153	886	703	762
(excluding Sikkim)								
Sikkim		12	09	08	02	04	01	
Kolkata District	Telephone		4893	4912	2106	4726	4212	1978

(d) Steps taken to clear the pending applications are:

(i) Laying of Cable in the areas where the connections are non-feasible.

(ii) Around 72700 Fixed Wireless Type (FWT) sets ordered for West Bengal Circle. These sets will be used for providing PCOs also in areas which are Technically Not Feasible (TNF) on underground cable.

(iii) Procurement of exchange cards for PCOs.